

Geographic Dictionary by Pascual Madoz

Spain “How to” Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

January 2017

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to use the Madoz geographic dictionary to correctly identify the municipality, province, and diocese of a location.

INTRODUCTION

To begin Spanish research, the first thing you will need is the name of the town. Once you know the name of the town you need to know where the records are located. This is where gazetteers come into play. A gazetteer can help you learn about the jurisdictions of a locality and therefore, help you locate where records might have been kept. Gazetteers are commonly referred to as geographic dictionaries in Spanish speaking countries, and will be referred to as such in this guide. As you learn about the Madoz geographic dictionary you will learn how to find the location of records for a town.

HOW TO

The Madoz geographic dictionary is one of the most useful tools in Spanish research because it was created around 1850. The historical aspect is invaluable when trying to get a picture of what a town looked like during that time period.

Pascual Madoz added many things to his geographic dictionary that you would not typically find. A traditional gazetteer usually lists the name of the town, its geographic coordinates, and basic jurisdictional information. In addition to town names, Madoz added names of homesteads, ranches, rivers, and other landmarks. For each entry, he would include the name of the province and diocese, along with the parishes in the town and the number of residents and inhabitants. For genealogical purposes, the jurisdictional information is also very important.

One of the difficulties of using the Madoz geographic dictionary is the use of abbreviations. Madoz abbreviates many of the common words relating to jurisdictions and other entries that you will see. Following are a list of the most useful abbreviations found in the geographic dictionary along with their meaning and translation:

Abbreviation	Spanish term	English Translation
ald	Aldea	Small village
alm	Almas	Inhabitants
ayunt.	Ayuntamiento	Town council
cas	Caserío	Homestead
dioc	Diocesis	Diocese

felig	Feligresía	Parish
hab	Habitantes	Inhabitants
ob	Obispado	Bishopric
prov	Provincia	Province
part. jud	Partido Judicial	Judicial District
v	Villa	Town
(V.)	Véase	See
vec.	Vecino	Residents

Knowing these abbreviations will help you know where to look for records. Two particularly helpful abbreviations are “ayunt.” and “part. jud.” These two refer to where you would be able to locate civil registration records. The “dioc.” abbreviation will tell you in what diocese the church records can be found. This is useful because diocesan borders do not always follow provincial borders. All abbreviations with their meanings are found at the beginning of each volume.

All entries are organized alphabetically. Remember that “LL” and “Ñ” are considered separate letters. Below is the entry for Gatova. The abbreviations have been underlined in the entry. Most abbreviations are found in the same spot in each entry.

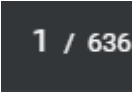

GATÓVA: l. con ayunt. de la prov. de Castellon de la Plana (10 leg.), part. jud. de Segorbe (2), aud. terr., c. g. y dioc. de Valencia (6); sit. en terreno montuoso, junto a los confines de la prov. de Valencia; libre al embate de todos los vientos; su CLIMA es bastante templado y saludable. Tiene 242 CASAS, inclusa la cárcel, escuela de niños á la que concurren 92 dotada con 1,100 rs., otra de niñas con 78 de asistencia y 500 rs. de dotacion, y una igl. parr. (Ntra. Sra. de los Angeles), de la que es anejo la de Marines, servida por un cura de provision ordinaria. El rénm. confina por N. con el de Segorbe (2 leg.); E. Serra (prov. de Valencia, part. jud. de Murviedro, 2 1/2); S. Marines (de la misma prov., part. jud. de Liria, 4), y O. Alcublas (id., part. de Villar del Arzobispo 3), y Altura (2 1/2). En su radio se encuentran los cas. dichos de Tristan y Marmolé, y muchos montes generalmente desp., aunque con buenos pastos. A la dist. de 4 leg. SO. del pueblo, está la ald. ó masia de Cucalon (V.), la cual corresponde al tér. jurisd. de Altura, aunque se halla dist. mas de 3 leg. de ella. El TERRUENO es quebrado y de mediana calidad, en partes bastante ingrato. Los CAMINOS son locales y no muy buenos. La CORRESPONDENCIA se recibe de Segorbe, por peaton 3 veces á la semana. PROP.: trigo, cebada, vino, aceite, higos, almendros, garbanzos y legumbres; mantiene ganado lanar y cabrio, y caza de perdices, liebres y conejos. IND.: la agricola, 4 almazaras de aceite, un edificio con 8 lagares, 3 hornos de pan cocer, 2 herrerías, y un poco de carboneo. POBL.: 152 vec., 797 almas. CAR. PROP.: 4,027,250 rs. IMP.: 64,040.

Source: Pascual Madoz, *Diccionario Geográfico-Estadístico-Histórico de España y sus posesiones de ultramar* (Madrid: Imprenta 1850) v. 8, p. 332, FHL 946 E5m v. 8.

All 16 volumes of the Madoz dictionary have been digitized and are available through the FamilySearch Catalog. The call number is 946 E5m.

PRACTICE

Use the Madoz dictionary to find more information about the town of **Deveso (Sta. Maria Fiz del)**. Follow these steps to find the information.

1. Go to FamilySearch.org, hover over the word Search and click on the word **Catalog** when the drop-down menu appears.
2. In the Place search field, enter the locality Spain. Choose Spain when the option appears. Then click on **Search**.
3. Click on the result **Spain – Gazetteers (7)** to expand the list of entries.
4. Click on either entry for *Diccionario geográfico-estadístico-histórico de España y sus posesiones de ultramar* by Pascual Madoz.
5. The town of Deveso is found in volume 7. Click on the word **here** found in the phrase **To view a digital version of Vol. 7 of this item click here**. The dictionary will open in a new browser tab.
6. Using the scroll bar located on the right of your screen, look for the entry for Deveso (Sta. Maria Fiz del). It is on page 386. Page numbers are located in the upper left corner of the image for even numbered pages and in the upper right corner for odd numbered pages. You can also enter an image number to jump ahead. To enter an image number, hover over the top center of the image. You should now see this box.
7. Click on the number 1. You are now able to enter a number. Enter 386 and press **Enter** on your keyboard. Notice the page numbers and image numbers do not match exactly; you should now be on page 385. You can either scroll down one page from here or enter 387 to get to the next page.
8. Locate the entry on the left side of the page about 1/3 of the way down. You can use the + or – buttons to enlarge or reduce the image. They are located on the right side of the page and will appear if you pass your cursor over the lower right corner of the page.
9. Locate the province by finding the abbreviation “prov.” It is La Coruña.
10. Now find out which diocese the town belongs to by locating the abbreviation “dióc.” The name of the diocese is Mondoñedo.
11. Next, locate the judicial district. You will find the judicial district following the abbreviation “part. jud.” It is Sta. (Santa) Marta de Ortigueira.
12. The next important jurisdiction to identify is the town council. The abbreviation for this is “ayunt.” The town council is called Puentes de Garcia Rodriguez.
13. Finally, look for the number of residents for the town. The abbreviation is “vec.” and is usually found at the bottom of the entry. There were 273 residents in Deveso (Sta. Maria Fiz del).

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.